

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	Uwe Bacher
Serial No. 10/	Filing Date: September 15, 2003
Title of Application:	Medical Instrument

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 Post Office Box 1450
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Preliminary Amendment

Applicant herewith presents its amendment and remarks. Please amend the claims and abstract as detailed below.

In the Claims

1. (currently amended) Medical instrument with a shaft (2), a handle (3) mounted on the proximal end of the shaft (2), and a tool (4) mounted on the distal end of the shaft (2) and activated by the handle (3), where the handle (3) and the tool (4) are in active connection by means of at least one activation rod (6) and the tool (4) can be secured detachably by means of a tool shaft on the activation rod (6), for which purpose the tool shaft (7) and the activation rod (6) have protuberances (9) and/or recesses (9), which can be joined in a form-locking connection, at least partially, with corresponding recesses (9) or protuberances (8) of the other respective component (6, 7 or 7, 6) wherein the recesses (9) and protuberances (8) corresponding to one another are configured in such a way that the tool (4) and the activation rod (6) can be brought into engagement with one another by means of a movement exclusively in one direction essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod (6).

2. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to claim 1, wherein the tool (4) can be secured to the activation rod (6) in such a way that forces can be transmitted in the longitudinal direction of the activation rod (6) and/or torsion forces can be transmitted to the tool (4).

3. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to ~~either of claims 1 or~~ claim 2, wherein the tool (4) and the activation rod (6) can be connected with one another by means of a motion essentially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the activation rod (6).

4. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to~~ claim 3, wherein the activation rod (6) and the tool shaft (7) are configured as essentially round in cross-section.

5. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to claim 4, wherein in the area of the distal end of the round activation rod (6) at least on one side a tangential leveling is formed on the activation rod (6) in such a way that the distal end of the activation rod (6) further has a head area (8a) overhanging the leveling in radial direction and the proximal area of the tool shaft (7) has an overlap (8b) for receiving the head area (8a) of the activation rod (6) and a recess corresponding to the tangential leveling of the activation rod (6).

6. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to claim 5, wherein the tangential leveling of the activation rod (6) is configured as a middle stud (9a) leveled from two opposite sides and the corresponding recess on the tool shaft (7) is configured as a radial slit (9b).

7. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to ~~at least one of claims 1 through~~ claim 6, wherein the activation rod (6) and the tool (4) can be coupled to one another by means of at least one stud (10) running diagonally to the instrument longitudinal axis, where the stud (10) on the one hand is stored in a hold (12) bored in the activation rod (6) or in the tool shaft (7) and on the other hand engages in a corresponding recess (14) in the tool shaft (7) or in the activation rod (6).

8. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to ~~at least one of claims 1 to~~ claim 7, wherein, for the transmission of pulling or pushing forces in the coupling area, a spring element (~~13~~) is placed between the activation rod (~~6~~) and the tool (~~4~~).

9. (currently amended) Medical instrument according to claim 8, wherein the tool (~~4~~) can be activated by means of the spring element (~~13~~).